

COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

24 September 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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1. At 3:25 p.m. on 30 July 1951, a burning MiG-15 crashed about 4 km north of Koethen, west of the road leading to Aken. Another jet fighter of the same type flew over the place of accident three times and then headed south. The plane was completely destroyed. No help was possible because of the enormous heat which developed around the burning plane. About 20 minutes later, 2 jeeps, 1 ambulance, 1 truck with a hoisting gear, and an air force detachment arrived. The place of accident was blocked by the soldiers who searched the ground for fragments of the plane for 200 meters around.

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2. Between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on 15 August Koethen airfield was observed from the east. At 10:30 a.m., 15 to 20 MiG-15s were parked in front of the southern hangar and 20 MiG-15 and 5 single-engine planes in front of the flight control building. About 11:30 a.m., 24 jet fighters, [redacted] were parked on the eastern end of the runway. Twenty-two other jet fighters stood along the taxiway north of these planes. The total occupation could not be determined. (1) There was intensive flying but only by aircraft which came from and taxied back to the hangars. The planes circled over the field. At 12:35 p.m., the jet fighters

[redacted] took off from the field. The aircraft did not land until 1:30 p.m. Several trucks and a radio truck with a brush antenna with three dipoles on top were parked at the take-off point. Three AA guns, estimated at 75 mm, were emplaced about 700 meters east-northeast of triangulation point 94.4. A radio installation with four masts and another radio installation with two masts were east of the field. (2) From the radio installation with two masts a telegraph line extended to the installation with four masts and a telephone line extended toward the east. The telephone line could be seen as far as the outskirts Pflaumsdorf.

3. Between 3:30 and 5 p.m. on 11 August, all the hangars at the field were closed. Eight MiG-15s [redacted] were parked at the eastern end of the runway. There was no flying. Trucks [redacted] went toward the field. Trucks [redacted] were seen near the heavy AA guns on the southern edge of the field.

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CLASSIFICATION

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- 2 -

50X1-HUM

4. Between 1 and 3:30 p.m. on 15 August, the field was observed from its eastern and northern edges. Visibility was good and cloudiness increased. Six jet fighters, [] were parked in front of the northern hangar by the road to Baasdorf. Two additional jet fighters were observed in the hangar. Five jet fighters, [] were parked in front of the southern hangar. Three additional jet fighters were observed in the hangar. Two single-engine planes with two crew members and 20 jet fighters were parked in front of the northwestern hangar. Of the jet fighters, [] Seven jet fighters, [] were on the east end of the runway. Three jet fighters were seen in front of the flight control building and 15 jet fighters, [] along the taxiway on the eastern edge of the field. Three single-engine planes [] with two-man crews circled over the field. The aircraft had red propeller hubs. Two jet fighters left in formation toward Zerbst. (3) Six tank trucks, 1 fire truck, 1 radio truck with three whip antennae and several jeeps were parked at the take-off point. Trucks [] and jeep [] entered and left the field.

5. Between 3:30 and 7 p.m. on 16 August, the field was observed from its eastern and northwestern edges. Four jet fighters and a single-engine plane were parked in front of the closed hangars at the northeastern section of the field. Eight jet fighters [] were parked at the eastern end of the runway. There was no flying. A braced mast about 10 meters high was observed just west of Koethen-Baasdorf road, not far from kilometer stone 3.1, near the firing range. A vertical antenna with five dipoles was on top of the mast. A man with headphones was observed at the foot of the mast, in front of a box-like device about 1 meter high. A tent, trucks [] and 5 to 8 men were seen next to the mast. A cable extended from the mast to the radio installation with two masts toward the east. Another radio installation, which consisted of a braced telescopic mast mounted on a two-axle trailer and van-like truck [] was observed about 30 meters north of the southern boundary of the field and about 50 meters west of the Koethen-Baasdorf road. Three men extended the mast to a height of 15 to 20 meters by means of a winch. A parasol-type antenna was fitted on top of the mast. (4) Two cables led from the antenna to the van-like truck. This antenna had two black threads. The radio installation was heavily guarded. A radio truck with three antennas, several trucks [] and tank truck [] were observed at the take-off point.
6. Between 11:50 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on 19 August, no aircraft were observed at the field except for three jet fighters which were parked in front of the northeastern hangars.

- Comments. []
- (1) [] a total of 46 MiG-15s. [] the airfield is occupied by two fighter regiments equipped with a total of about 70 MiG-15s.
- (2) The radio installation with four masts is an Adcock DF station.
- (3) This indicates that 63 MiG-15s were stationed at the field.
- (4) This is an antenna system for a decimeter wave directional connection. For sketch of antenna system []

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